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The People's Korea

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Presidential Condolences To Mme. Lelio Basso

President Kim Il Sung Dec. 17 sent a message of condolence to the widow of Lelio Basso, a prominent political figure and freedom fighter, upon his death from unexpected illness, KCNA reported.

The message of condolence reads:

Upon hearing the sad news that Mr. Lelio Basso, a prominent political figure and freedom fighter, died of unexpected illness, to our sorrow, I express deep condolences to you, Madame, and other members of the bereaved family of the deceased.

The noble exploits performed by him in the cause of justice and democracy and the reunification of Korea during his lifetime will remain long in the memory of our people and all the honest-minded people.

* Lelio Basso, who would have been 75 on Dec. 25, was one of the leading democratic figures of the Italian politics.

He headed the International Liaison Committee for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea.

On the occasion of the Nov. 27-29 2nd world conference for Korean reunification, Tokyo, he came to Japan and made a great contribution to the success of the conference.

¥500 Mil. Scholarships Sent Here

REF DIV.
JAN - 4 1979
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President Kim Il Sung sent educational aid fund and stipends reaching the large amount of 500 million yen (Japanese currency) in the 70th installment for the development of the democratic national education of the Korean citizens in Japan, KCNA reported on Dec. 19.

This has brought the total amount of the educational aid fund and stipends sent by him so far to 25,862,827,033 yen.

The 69th installment of such remittance was sent in September last on the threshold of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK, amounting to 500 million yen.

The first remittance, 121,099,086 yen, came in April, 1957 when the DPRK faced the difficult situation in the rehabilitation of the country after the three-year war against the U.S. invasion which ended in 1953.

U.S.-Directed Cosmetic Abuse of Amnesty; "Yusin" Dictatorship Intact, No Democracy

Nothing happened to help bring south Korea nearer democracy on Dec. 22 when the embattled dictatorial Pak Jung Hi junta announced the parole of former "presidential" candidate Kim Dae Jung and others in what it called a "general amnesty." The "KCIA"-kidnapped Kim Dae Jung had his five-year term suspended. Kim Ji Ha, the poet, had his life imprisonment commuted to 20 years. Few other political prisoners were released.

This adds up to no change in the ruthless dictatorial rule. None of the totally-justified demands of the south Korean people have been met: the removal of the "*yusin*" regime with the abolition of the "*yusin* constitution," the abolition of all the "emergency measures," the unconditional and immediate release of all the political prisoners, total efforts for the national reunification process, the discontinuation of the "export-first" policy, a drastic improvement of the labor conditions of the working people, and an end on economic dependence on the U.S., Japan and other countries.

As for Kim Dae Jung, none of the "KCIA" agents who kidnapped him from Tokyo were arrested; he is not allowed to return to what he was prior to his abduction. Since he is not found "not guilty," he is subject to a rearrest any time. With all the "emergency measures" and the "*yusin* constitution" left intact, all the people just paroled are kept under constant threats of reimprisonment on charges of violating them.

A hard fact is that in south Korea it is a "major anti-state crime" to criticize the Pak junta, call for democracy and strive for reunification.

The latest abuse of "general amnesty" is simply an American-directed cosmetic approach to mislead the public by creating the impression that the dictatorial Pak junta has considerations for human rights and democracy. It is a trick to smooth out the projected "summit" of the puppet dictator with his American boss Jimmy Carter whose much-ballyhooed commitment to human rights is quite misleading and self-contradicting.

The Carter Administration revealed its shameless nature as a complete hypocrite as it expressed a welcome to the abuse of "amnesty" by the Pak junta. A motive of the Carter conduct is that such "amnesty" is instrumental in justifying the continuing association with the puppet with worst human rights records.

During its two years in office, the Carter Administration has continued to support the embattled Pak junta politically, militarily and economically in a total confrontation with the democratic forces. Steps have been taken to consolidate the military control of south Korea through the so-called Combined Forces Command, with the supply of military aid sharply increased. The perpetuation of "two Koreas" is the common policy of Seoul and Washington bonded together with an intense hatred for democracy, both hell-bent on provoking a war.

EDITORIAL

Time for Seoul to Live With Communism

In recent months, a series of developments have spotlighted the urgency for Seoul to totally review its outdated "anti-communism" and commit itself firmly to the peaceful and independent reunification with Pyongyang. The patron states of the dictatorial Pak junta, the U.S. and Japan have achieved rapprochement with the People's Republic of China, by severing military or diplomatic ties with Taiwan. It has become a trendy act to reach accommodation with communism and the independent-upholding peoples in the international community of nations.

Communism is the leading idea of numerous countries as hundreds of millions of people the world over find proper answers in communism to all the issues arising in their struggle for progress, independence and happiness. No force is plainly capable of defeating it. Whatsoever reasons, this hard fact convinced the U.S. and its allies to seek for ties with the socialist states.

In the north, the whole people wholeheartedly support communism as their guiding principle which has struck deep root in Korean soil there. It is a mission impossible to try to bring down them. It is also true that Pyongyang has no intention to compel Seoul to accept its communism under whatsoever circumstances.

The spirit and the letter of the July 4, 1972 north-south joint communique—whose three principles are independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity—and the policy statements of the DPRK Government leave no doubt in the minds of the people that the successful peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula is predicated on the removal of all the legalistic barriers of the ill-advised "anti-communism" built into the socio-political, economic and cultural institutions in the south. The point here is that Seoul must learn to live with communism if it is really committed to national reunification.

The Dec. 19 ruling of the puppet Supreme Court against two professional philatelists is a prime example of the inhibitive nature of the judicial system of south Korea under the dictatorial Pak regime. The ruling made it clear that collecting DPRK postage-stamps even for a hobby or a study constitutes a "crime" punishable under the "Anti-Communist Law" and other related laws. It therefore follows that whoever has whatsoever contact with the northern half commits "a crime" automatically and face a harsh jail term.

So far and currently, countless democrats, including students, journalists, politicians and Christians, have been imprisoned or executed, or face imprisonment or capital punishment, on charges of having called for restoration of democracy and national reunification. The ruling quarters now punish without any hesitation collecting DPRK postage-stamps as a "crime," despite the fact that collecting postage-stamps is a world-wide practice subject to no restriction.

The untenableness of the "anti-communist" laws is such that the Americans, the Japanese or the south Koreans stand accused of violating those outdated "laws" when they call for "economic or cultural interchange" with the north, or when the south Koreans signed the July north-south joint communique. The now suspended north-south talks were an open breach of the south Korean "laws". The Red Cross talks, too, were in contravention of them.

Time has come for the long-awaited steps to be taken to learn to live with communism. The traditional Korean values must transcend any political, ideological and economic differences—the time-honored national unity of the Korean people.

To this end, democracy must be revived in south Korea without loss of time, with all the obstacles being removed from the reunification process and with all the political detainees released unconditionally and immediately.

This is the way to a lasting peace in this part of Asia.

Rodong Sinmun on Peking-Washington Normalisation

PYONGYANG, Dec. 23 (KCNA)—Follows the full text of a writing published in Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the WPK) under the headline 'Reflecting the Trend of the Times":

The People's Republic of China and the United States of America have agreed to recognize each other and to establish diplomatic relations as of January 1, 1979, according to a recently published China-U.S. joint communique.

In the joint communique the United States recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China and acknowledged that there is but one China and Taiwan is part of China.

In its government statement the United States declared that on January 1, 1979 it would terminate its diplomatic relations with Taiwan and that the mutual defence treaty between the United States and Taiwan would be terminated, and the U.S. president stated that the United States would withdraw all its troops from Taiwan within four months.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States is a normal event that can be seen between states.

Thirty years have passed since the people's revolution triumphed in China and the People's Republic of China was founded.

We welcome the normalisation of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China, our neighbour and fraternal country, and the United States, that put an end to the protracted hostile relations between them.

It is a good thing for the People's Republic of China to establish state relations with various countries of the world and broaden the sphere of its activities in the international arena.

The opening of China-U.S. diplomatic relations reflects the irresistible trend of our epoch when the people, once maltreated and oppressed, have emerged the master on the historical scene to build an independent, new life.

In the joint communique, the United States declared that it would not seek hegemony in the Asia-Pacific region or in any other region of the world.

This is interesting and deserves welcome.

Seeking no hegemony accords with the desire and aspiration of the world people to ensure independence to the countries and nations, ease the international tension and preserve peace.

We think that if the United States intend to seek no hegemony in the Asia-Pacific region or in any other region of the world, it should not seek it in Korea either.

Korea has been kept divided for one-third of a century. The division of Korea is a root cause of the creation of tension and the growth of the danger of war in this region and a factor of the threat to peace in Asia and the world.

Korea must be reunified at an early date. Her reunification is a unanimous desire of the Korean people and the rest of the world people.

If the United States intend not to seek hegemony in Korea, it should, above all, do something good helpful toward the reunification of Korea.

In other words, it should neither oppose the reunification of Korea nor encourage the south Korean puppet authorities to a war; furthermore, it had better withdraw its troops from south Korea as Mr. Carter had already pledged.

Korea is not a country that participated in a war of aggression in the past nor it is a defeated country, but a country artificially divided by outside forces. Ours is a nation oppressed under the colonial yoke of foreign aggression forces and ours is a people who achieved the liberation of the country through a struggle against the aggression forces which had occupied our country.

Ours is a nation which had lived without a split through its long history and the most earnest desire of our people today is to realize the reunification of the country and the nation.

Even if our country is reunified, it will neither invade nor threaten other countries.

The Korean people are an ardent lover of peace. In their history spanning thousands of years, our people have never unleashed a war against other countries nor invaded them. To aspire after peace was, is and will be the invariable will of our nation.

If the United States do not seek hegemony in Korea, but take a step toward the realisation of the reunification of Korea, our people will preserve peace in Korea and solve the question of national reunification in a peaceful way.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung has taught:

"If the U.S. troops are withdrawn from south Korea, we are ready to make arrangements with the U.S. side to remove the danger of a new war and guarantee a lasting peace in Korea."

The Government of our Republic has declared more than once that if the United States took a correct stand for the reunification of Korea, it would solve with the latter all necessary problems for the maintenance of peace in Korea at any time.

The three principles—independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity—and the five-point policy of national reunification which are widely known to the world are an embodiment of the consistent peace-loving stand of the Government of our Republic.

We consider that if the United States truly seek no hegemony in Korea, there are in Korea all possibilities to remove the prolonged tension, consolidate peace and realise the peaceful reunification of the country.

Then, the United States, too, would be able to take hands off the Korean question without impairing its honour and this would conform to the interests not only of our people but also of the U.S. people and Asian and world peoples.

Asia has long been a theatre of international disputes since World War Two.

The normalisation of the China-U.S relations removed another cause of these disputes.

Since the United States, in opening diplomatic relations with China, pledged not to seek hegemony in Asia-Pacific region or in any other region of the world, to terminate the mutual defence treaty between the United States and Taiwan and withdraw its troops from Taiwan in the near future, there is no ground that it cannot do the same thing in south Korea.

When it does so, the pledge of Mr. Carter to withdraw U.S. troops from south Korea will practically prove trustworthy and an era of peace will come to the Far East.

Our people are a people who greatly treasure independence. We will always firmly maintain our national sovereignty and our country will not become a military base or an operational base for any foreign country after its reunification.

We will always harmoniously develop friendly and cooperative relations with all the peoples of the world who are friendly to our people and establish normal state relations with all countries which are not hostile to our country.

Ours is an era of independence. Many countries of the world demand independence and all the peoples oppose domination and dependence. No force on earth can keep the world people from demanding independence and countries and nations from advancing toward independence, self-sustenance and peace.

We are convinced that the question of Korean reunification also will certainly be solved in the long run in conformity with the powerful flow of history in our times.

DPRK Hits U.S.'s Provocative Mil. Exercise

U.S. air force units in the Clark U.S. air force base, the Philippines, recently staged a two-week long aerial exercise dubbed "Cope Thunder" with the DPRK as an "imaginary enemy," in which U.S. air force planes in south Korea and Japan also participated.

Denouncing this exercise, Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the WPK) Dec. 16 said in a signed commentary:

The base commander blustered that the operational duties of the Clark air force base involved the Korean Peninsula and the warplanes at the base were always combat-ready like one always in the saddle to counter a "contingency" on the Korean Peninsula.

The recent military exercise clearly indicates that the United States' preparations for a new war in Korea are being stepped up not only in south Korea but also in all the Asian and Pacific regions and the Clark U.S. air force base is a base for aggression which is kept prepared for a direct involvement in a war the moment the U.S. provokes it in Korea. The U.S. imperialists intend to let their air force units in the Clark base play the key role as an "air strike force" among the "mobile strike units" which they organised to unleash a war in Korea. The aerial exercise "Cope Thunder" was designed to further perfect the emergency mobilization posture of the "mobile strike units" and attack our Republic from the sky in particular.

The exercise staged by the U.S. imperialists in the air above the Philippines was a war preparation to carry into practice the "short-term hard strike strategy."

It was to link together the operational actions of the U.S. air force in the Asian and Pacific regions and establish a nuclear war system.

This shows that the United States has not discarded its aggressive designs on Korea, but is hastening war preparations with greater speed. The recent activation of the "South Korea-U.S. Combined Foreces Command" in south Korea proves that the United States is scheming to keep south Korea under military occupation and maintain its colonial domination there and launch a new war in Korea, far from withdrawing its troops from south Korea.

Today the United States seeks a war, not peace in Korea.

*** Instead of implementing its pledge to withdraw U.S. troops from south Korea, the U.S. is bent on beefing up military power around the Korean Peninsula, while introducing vast quantities of military equipment into south Korea, in an effort to perpetuate "two Koreas."**

Follows a partial list of major military steps taken by the U.S. this year.

MAR. 7-18: The 11-day exercise dubbed "Team Spirit '78", which was the largest of the kind in scale after the 1953 Korean ceasefire, involved 107,000 American and south Korean puppet troops.

JUN. 14-21: A south Korea-U.S. joint landing exercise code-named "Twin Dragon Exercise Operation (Ssangryong No. 8)" in the area of Pohang on the eastern coast of N. Kyongsang Prov.

SEP. 24-OCT. 6: A 12-day military exercise took place around Korea with the mobilization of the U.S. 7th Fleet, a task force of two carriers and scores of warships, many aircrafts and 15,000 men of the U.S. forces stationed in the Pacific region.

OCT. 27: The discovery of the alleged "third tunnel" was announced by "the UN Command."

NOV. 7: The "South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command" was activated in the presence of the U.S. Secretary of Defence.

NOV. 8: The U.S. 497th Tactical Fighter Squadron was created at the Taegu AFB, North Kyongsang Prov.

DEC. 20: U.S. presidential national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski disclosed at the Washington meeting of the Foreign Policy Association, a private group, the U.S. policy for developing the quickly deployable military capabilities and continuing the effective presence of the military forces in Northeast Asia and the Atlantic.

Pak Holds Anti-Reunion Meet of Puppet Army Bosses

The Pak Jung Hi junta on Dec. 15 held a "leading commanders meeting of the whole army."

At the closed-door meeting attended by puppet army bosses, the junta brewed plots to make haste with war preparations by "strengthening the combat posture," "reinforcing combat power" and "nursing war industry," raising outcries over someone's "provocation," "threat of southward invasion," etc.

Such act of the Pak junta is a very dangerous move to block the peaceful reunification of the country and start a new war in Korea by further converting south Korea into a powder magazine. It is all the more ill-boding, as it coincides with the madcap preparations for a war of aggression which the United States is now hastening while reinforcing their forces at the bases in and around south Korea and staging incessantly military exercises under simulated conditions of a war of aggression on the north.

The Pak junta are feverishly staging war games with the encouragement of the United States.

Press Conf. Held at France Senate On 2nd World Korea Conf.

The French Action Committee to Support the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea Dec. 11 held a press conference at the French Senate House on the successful holding of the Second World Conference for the Reunification of Korea.

It was attended by Andre Aubry, Chairman of the French Action Committee to Support the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea and Mayor of Antoni; Jean Dory, Secretary General, and Guy Dupre, Deputy Secretary General, of the Permanent Secretariat of the International Liaison Committee for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea; Dominique Galle, Secretary General of the Progressive Gaullists Union of France; political and public figures and many reporters.

Andre Aubry and other personages spoke at the press conference.

Noting that the U.S. troops' occupation of south Korea not only gravely threatens the security and peace in Korea and Asia but also constitutes a dangerous source of a new global conflict, Andre Aubry said: To support the struggle of the Korean people for the reunification of the country is not only a duty of mankind to the Korean people who are divided against their will, subjected to aggression but also an important contribution to the world peace.

Jean Dory stressed that the Tokyo conference marked an important occasion in further strengthening and developing the international solidarity movement for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and elevated and consolidated the international position of the International Liaison Committee for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea.

Guy Dupre said that the occupation of south Korea by the U.S. troops is a chief obstacle to the reunification of Korea and demanded the U.S. forces withdraw from south Korea without delay, taking along all the military equipment including nuclear weapons.

Dominique Galle sharply denounced the south Korean puppet clique's violation of democracy and human rights.

The Progressive Gaullists of France will, in the future, too, as in the past, actively support the struggle of the Korean people for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, he said.

Prior to the press conference at the French Senate House, Andre Aubry, made a report at the French national meeting held recently in Paris in support of the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

Denouncing the U.S. political manoeuvres for the permanent division of Korea, he referred to the prospect for the next year of the French movement to support Korean reunification.

He stressed that the foremost task is to widely propagate in France the questions discussed at the Tokyo conference, the international event, especially, the concrete proposals for the solution of the Korean question.

SEC Report :

U.S. Aircraft Maker Bribed S. Korean Officials

High-ranking south Korean "government" officials are involved in alleged overseas commission payments by McDonnel Douglas Corp., it was revealed in Washington.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) says that in connection with the sale of worth $76 million business-purpose aircrafts to a south Korean airliner, commissions totalling $3.3 million were paid to a certain south Korean firm which had long acted as a local agent for U.S. major companies.

The firm and the buyer airliner are run by the same persons, and one of them endorsed cheques of commissions as an executive of and on behalf of the firm, it says. A document owned by the aircraft manufacturer shows a possibility that some of the commissions were paid to the above-mentioned persons and, or, to high-ranking south Korean "government" officials, the SEC says.

The SEC filed a complaint with the U.S. district court Dec. 14 against the major American aircraft manufacturer for failing to report what it termed "fraudulent activities in foreign countries."

According to the 9-page complaint, there are indications that the aircraft maker has been making improper payments of more than $8 million to foreign government high-ranking officials in connection with the sale of its aircrafts from 1969 to date. The company is believed to have paid commissions worth $7 million, part of which have gone to foreign high-ranking officials and executives of foreign airliners.

The SEC says in its complaint that this kind of commission payments were made to a number of high-ranking officials of 16 countries including south Korea, Japan and West Germany during the 8 years between 1969 and 1976.

Collectors of DPRK Stamps Punished in S. Korea

The south Korean "supreme court" Dec. 19 upheld the prison terms given to stamp collectors by the "lower courts" on charges of having gathered DPRK's stamps, a crime punishable under "the Anti-Communist Law".

The "supreme court" ruled it illegal to keep DPRK's stamps regardless of the purpose, be it for studies or hobbies.

The defendants are Pyo Ul Gyong, 52, former president of the south Korean stamp association and another stamp collector.

They were arrested as Pyo bought more than 300 stamps of the DPRK in 1972 from a Japanese tourist and sold some of them to another stamp collector in 1976.

The first-instance "court" sentenced Pyo to one year in prison with a two-year stay of execution at the first trial—another, to eight months with a two-year stay of execution.

The court declared that even if DPRK stamps gathered for a hobby or a study by a professional stamp collector, it would constitute an act of playing into the public relations campaign of the DPRK and praising "anti-state" organizations.

Presidential On-Spot Guidances in 1978

During this year, the first year of the Second Seven-Year Plan (1978-1984), President Kim Il Sung gave on-the-spot guidances to many provinces and presided over meetings designed to promote the further development of the national economy.

Among those provinces were North and South Pyongan, North and South Hamgyong, South Hwanghae and Kangwon provinces.

The President gave minute directions for developing agriculture, fishery and other industries.

In agriculture, stress was given to overcoming the persistent cold front which recently affects farming on a worldwide scale and causing a food crisis in which 500 million people are believed to be starving.

To this end, underlined were the following points: a further perfection of the irrigation system, an earlier completion of transplantation and introduction of cold-frame rice seedlings 100 per cent. Mechanization and Chemicalization was also urged to massively use farming machines and phosphorous and silicon fertilizers.

In fishery, continued stress was laid on the development of medium- and small-scale inshore fishing along with large-scale fishing and a new fishery guidance system was introduced to strengthen guidance over state-run fisheries and guide cooperative fisheries by an industrial method.

Many more fishing boats are expected to be produced in shipyards including Wonsan, Sinpo and Chongjin.

In accordance with the rapid development of the national economy, the demand for conducting active foreign trade is increasing.

In this connection Haeju Port rejuvenation was told to be hastened as a clean international city.

It is also necessary to utilize underground water for industrial use and drinking to overcome the water famine due to the cold front, the presidential guidance made clear.

S. Pyongan Prov.

President Kim Il Sung inspected Mar. 24 and 25 in person factories, enterprises and the countryside in South Pyongan Province.

On this occasion, the President underscored the importance of the Taean Heavy Machine Plant the construction of which is now under way in Taean in the lower reaches of the River Taedong and is expected to be commissioned at the end of June next year.

This plant is to comprise combined processing shops, welding shops, an experimental shop, an oxygen generater shop, a compressor room and a transformer station and so on.

At a consultative meeting of agricultural workers in Kangso county, he said, it is necessary to finish the transplantation in a brief period by introducing cold-frame rice seedlings.

S. Hamgyong Prov.

President Kim Il Sung gave on-the-spot guidance to various branches of the national economy in North and South Hamgyong provinces and Chongjin for 11 days between June 17 and 27.

He inspected the Tanchon district, South Hamgyong Province. The Tanchon district linked with such mining districts as Kapsan and Unhung of Ryanggang Province and Hochon of South Hamgyong Province is called "Underground Treasure-House" of the DPRK.

The district covered with the mesozoic mineral stratum called *Tanchonamgum* in the geological term abounds in lead, zinc and other non-ferrous ores.

Korean magnesia widely known to the world is produced in this district.

He look around the construction site of a rotary kiln at the Tanchon Magnesia Factory and the Tanchon Smeltery which is being built on a large scale. Along with the smelting of various non-ferrous metals, the production of phosphorous fertiliser is envisaged at the Tanchon Smeltery in the future.

N. Hamgyong Prov.

During the period between June 19 and 27, he inspected major industrial establishments and cooperative farms in North Hamgyong Province and Chongjin, including the hot rolling mill and the construction site of the cold rolling mill of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Works.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Works is a leading combined metallurgical base of the country. During the past Six-Year Plan(1971-1976) it was installed with a 1,500 cubic metre blast furnace, a large continuous sintering furnace with a production capacity of 3 million tons, and a modern rolling branch shop with a capacity of one million tons at the works.

At a joint enlarged plenary meeting of the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee and the Chongjin Municipal Committee of the WPK held on June 26, saying that North Hamgyong Province still has considerable potentiality for increasing grain production, he taught that for the increased grain production it is necessary to set the proper times for sowing rice in the nursery and for sowing maize, for moving up the farming season, to mechanize farm work, by manufacturing and supplying large quantities of tractors and trailing farm machines, and that for mechanization, to rezone the fields well. He took a step for a larger supply of "Pungnyon-ho" tractors to Chongjin and North Hamgyong Province and put forward a task for the province to assemble by itself 400-500 "Chongjin-ho" tractors a year.

To realize chemicalization of agriculture, he stressed the following points: the construction of the Aoji Chemical Factory should be finished at an early date; the production of stimulus for growth of crops be increased; and more humus soil be produced and large quantities of silicon fertilizer be turned out at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Works.

He stressed that the Chongjin Shipyard should be improved and expanded to build larger ships.

The Chongjin Shipyard is another large ship-building base in the northern area of the eastern coast of the country. This year it built many 14,000-ton freighters including "Tumangang" (launched on Nov. 23) and a large ship "Munsusan."

During the last Six-Year Plan it built many 14,000-ton freighters, 5,000-ton refrigerator-transports and 3,750-ton stern trawlers.

Among the ships built there are 14,000-ton freighters "Wangjaesan" and "Osandok" and the repatriation ship "Mangyongbong" carrying Korean citizens returning from Japan to the DPRK. The 5,000-ton refrigerator-transports "Ponghwasan," "Pirobong," "Moranbong" and "Chongbong" and 3,750-ton stern trawlers "Ryongaksan", "Chongbangsan", "Changgwangsan" and "Unpasan" were also built there.

N. Pyongan Prov.

At an enlarged plenary meeting of the North Pyongan Provincial Committee of the WPK held between July 25 and 26, he said the present crop conditions showed that almost all the cities and counties including Unjon, Ryongchon, Yomju, Chongju, Uiru and Nyongbyon counties and cooperative farms in North Pyongan Province (a major grain producer of the DPRK) would produce much more rice and maize than last year.

The urea fertilizer division of the Youth Chemical Complex carried out ahead of the set time its production plan for the current manuring year. He instructed that the Aoji Chemical Factory should be constructed in a brief period.

The first-stage project of the construction of the Ponghwa Chemical Factory was completed within the "100-day battle."

He stated: The Pukjung Machine Plant should be speedily converted into a factory producing ordered equipment like the Ryongsong Machine Plant, and the Kusong Machine Tool Plant and the October 30 Factory should produce near capacity; a large forging and casting shop should be built in Chongju, Charyongwan and Kusong districts; the completion of the Kusong Bicycle Factory should be hastened to supply more bicycles to workers and farmers.

Kangwon,
S. Hamgyong Provs.

President Kim Il Sung indicated solutions for the problems for establishing a new fishery guidance system and realizing the modernization and scientification of fisheries and bringing agriculture and industry to a new higher stage to carry out the new long-term plan ahead of schedule, when he guided on Oct. 15 an enlarged meeting of the Political Committee of the WPK held in Hamhung, South Hmgyong Province, in the wake of his on-the-spot guidance to Kangwon Province for five days between Oct. 2 and 6 and South Hamgyong Province for 11 days from Oct. 6.

Saying that medium- and small-scale inshore fishing should be extensively developed along with large-scale fishing, he laid particular stress on directing much efforts to inshore fishing.

He proposed the policy of separating inshore fishing fleets or inshore fishing workteams from the state fishery stations and newly organising fishery stations specialized in inshore fishing alone.

For active inshore fishing, the Wonsan (Kangwon Prov.) and Sinpo (S. Hamgyong Prov.) shipyards are expected to produce many 450-ton trawlers.

In South Hamgyong Province, the per hectare yield of rice rose by 500 kilograms in 1977 above that in 1976 and again by over 870 kilograms this year above last year's and the corresponding figures of the per hectare yield of maize grew by 300 kilograms in 1977 over 1976 and by 1,200 kilograms last year.

He also stressed that the production of vinalon should be augmented at the chemical fibre mills of Chongjin and Sinuiju.

The Ryongsong Machine Plant was planned to be equipped with better facilities for the production of ordered equipment and large machine tools. The plant is manufacturing ordered equipment of key industrial domains—mining, metal, power, chemical and building-materials industries, and producing 6,000-ton presses, 3,000-ton presses, 20-metre lathes, 18-metre turning lathes and numerous machine tools, big and small.

S. Hwanghae Prov.

After giving on-the-spot guidance to the work of various domains of the national economy in South Hwanghae Province for four days from Oct. 31 to Nov. 3 President Kim Il Sung convened an enlarged meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Hwanghae Provincial Committee of the WPK on Nov. 2 and 3.

Saying that the fast development of the economy makes it urgent to expand foreign trade, President Kim Il Sung observed that, to this end, the ports on the west coast including Haeju should be further modernized.

Then the President acquainted himself with the cement production at the Haeju Cement Factory and set forth next year's goal of cement production and tasks for sharply raising the production of phosphorous fertilizers at the Haeju Smeltery.

Enlarged Movement

Successes in

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea conducted a vigorous diplomatic activities this year in which it met the 30th anniversary of its founding. Leaders of 11 countries paid a visit to the Republic. The central celebration of the 30th anniversary of its founding (Sep. 9) was attended by 110 delegates from 90 countries.

On top of this, 159 delegations from 90 countries, political, economic, cultural and military, visited the country during the period between January and early December. The number was 59 last year and 29 two years ago.

By the beginning of December, party and government delegations of the Republic were dispatched to 62 countries. Last year DPRK delegations visited 33 countries.

Among the attendants of the central celebration of the DPRK's founding were Presidents of Bangladesh and Madagascar, leaders of the parties and governments, and cabinet members.

Of 100 delegates were 31 from Asia, 41 from Africa, 6 from Latin America, and 32 from Europe. This shows a strong solidarity between the Republic and the countries of the Third World, a measure of the high international prestige of the DPRK.

The number of countries which recognized the Republic was only 7 in 1948, the year of its founding; the number increased to 13 in 1958, the 10th founding anniversary; then to 27 in 1968, the 20th anniversary and now stands at 99.

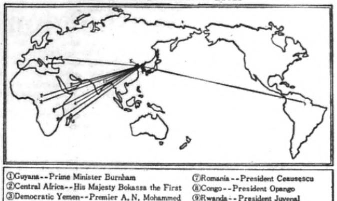
More and more countries are trying to strengthen friendship with the DPRK known for maintaining the line of political independence, economic self-support and self-reliant defense.

This year's vigorous diplomatic activities of the Republic has produced incomparably great international support for Korea's reunification.

When the DPRK's party and government delegations visited Asia and Africa, foreign leaders of the host countries expressed affirmative interest in Korea's independent, peaceful reunification, denounced "two Koreas" plot of south Korea, the US and Japan, and stressed that an international joint struggle should be waged.

During the period between January and March, delegations at various levels visited 14 countries in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. A particular attention is to be made of the fact that DPRK delegations visited Yugoslavia for 4 times and Romania for 3 times with personal letters of

Visits of Foreign Leaders to DPRK



①Guyana--Prime Minister Burnham
②Central Africa--His Majesty Bokassa the First
③Democratic Yemen--Premier A. N. Mohammed
④Seychelles--President Rene
⑤China--Chairman Hua Kuo-feng
⑥Mozambique--President Machel
⑦Romania--President Ceausescu
⑧Congo--President Opango
⑨Rwanda--President Juvenal
⑩Madagascar--President Ratsiraka
⑪Bangladesh--President Rahman
(the order of visits to Korea this year)

News in Brief

Nov. 15

• A protocol on the exchange of the ratifications of the consular accord between the DPRK and the German Democratic Republic was signed in Berlin.

Nov. 22

• An agreement on air service between the airlines of the DPRK and the Nepalese airlines was signed in Kathmandu.

Nov. 24

• Protocol on commodity delivery and payments for 1979 between the governments of the DPRK and Czechoslovakia was signed in Prague.

Nov. 27

• An agreement on trade and payments between the governments of the DPRK and the Republic of Austria was signed in Vienna.

Nov. 29

• An agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the governments of the DPRK and Bangladesh was signed in Dacca. Earlier, on Nov. 28, a trade protocol between the two governments was signed.

Nov. 30

• An agreement on strengthening cooperation in sports between the Korean Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Committee and the Physical Culture and Sports Committee under the USSR Council of Ministers was signed in Pyongyang.

Dec. 1

• A party and government delegation of the Republic of Malta headed by Joe Brincat, Deputy Leader of the Malta Labour Party, arrived in Pyongyang by air.

• An accord on economic and technical cooperation between the governments of the DPRK and the Kingdom of Nepal was signed in Kathmandu.

Dec. 2

• An agreement on economic and technical cooperation, an agreement on cooperation in fisheries and a protocol on technical cooperation between the Government of the DPRK and the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique were signed in Maputo.

• A protocol on the mutual delivery of commodities and payments for 1979 between the governments of the DPRK and the Polish People's Republic was signed in Warsaw.

• A trade agreement between the governments of the DPRK and the Kingdom of Thailand was signed in Bangkok.

Dec. 4

• A government delegation of the German Democratic Republic headed Egon Hempel, Vice-Minister for Heavy Engineering and Plant Construction of the GDR, arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

• A government delegation of the Romanian Socialist Republic headed by Paul Niculescu-Mizil, Member of the Executive Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party and Vice-Premier of the Government, arrived in Pyongyang by plane to attend the 8th meeting of the Inter-Governmental Economic and Scientific-Technological Consultative Committee of the DPRK and the Romanian Socialist Republic.

• An agreement on air transport was signed in Damascus between the governments of the DPRK and the Syrian Arab Republic.

• Ryu Tae Sop, Ambassador of the DPRK to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, presented his credentials to J.R. Jayewardene, President of the host country.

Dec. 5

• The Central People's Committee of the DPRK issued a decree appointing Chon Yong Jin as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the DPRK to the Republic of Portugal.

Dec. 6

• A Korean juvenile corps' leading functionaries delegation headed by Kim Chang Ryong left Pyongyang by plane to attend the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Ernst Thaelmann Pioneers Organization and a consultative meeting of presidents of the pioneers of socialist countries to be held in the German Democratic Republic.

Dec. 7

• Chae Hui Sop, newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the DPRK to the Republic of Botswana, presented his credentials to Seretse Khama, President of that country.

• Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, Chairman of the Supreme Revolutionary Council and President of the Republic of Burundi, met a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Yang Hyong Sop.

Dec. 8

• Kim Sang Jun, Ambassador of the DPRK to Viet Nam, paid a farewell call on Pham Van Dong, Premier of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Dec. 9

• A delegation of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea headed by Li Yong Su left Pyongyang by plane to attend the 10th Congress of the Union of the Yugoslav Socialist Youth.

(KCNA)

Newly Completed Works of Korean Tech.

During 1978, the year the Democratic People's Republic of Korea became years old, many grand new works of Korean technology appeared in various parts of the country.

Follows a partial list:

Electric Locomotive "Juche-ho", June

A new electric high-speed locomotive was made at the Kim Jong Tae Electric Locomotive Factory. President Kim Il Sung named it "Juche-ho"

"Chongchon Bridge", August 17

"Chongchon Bridge" had been built across the River Chongchon-gang.

The bridge linking the new industrial district (North Pyongan Prov.) that has taken shape on a bank of the River Chongchon-gang and newly-built Anju (South Pyongan Prov.) is the longest bridge in the DPRK, a Juche-motivated, modern bridge.

President Kim Il Sung named it "Chongchon Bridge."

The Ponghwa Chemical Plant

The first-stage project of the Ponghwa Chemical Plant was completed and production started. The first-stage project was completed in a little over one year after its start, in spite of the fact that it accounts for a greater part of the whole construction.

2,000-ton cargo ship "Yonpung-ho", August 23

The Nampo Shipyard (South Hwanghae Prov.) built and launched "Yonpung-ho" as a gift of loyalty to the 30th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK.

The ship is equipped with automated and telemechanized apparatus for navigation, loading and unloading facilities, well-furnished cabins and service facilities.

The International Friendship Exhibition, August 26

It is a six-storeyed building with a total floor space of 28,000 square metres. Light, temperature and humidity are automatically regulated.

On display in the order of continents and countries in scores of rooms are more than 25,000 pieces, part of valuable gifts of best wishes to President Kim Il Sung from heads of state, governments, revolutionary organisations, public and political figures and people of all strata of over 120 countries of the world.

An ivory sculpture of the native home in Mangyongdae was presented by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng to President Kim Il Sung.

The Pyongyang-Wonsan Express Highway, September 2

It links the east and the west of the country. The completion of this highway makes it more convenient to travel between Pyongyang and Wonsan by bus or car than by train.

The Pyongyang Metro, September 3

The third-stage project of the Pyongyang Metro was completed and opened.

Each station is decorated with grand mural paintings, mosaics and sculptures. The pillars were built with marble. It is more convenient for the city people to utilize the metro where it is neither cold in winter nor warm in summer.

The Central Hall of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea

This modern building with a floor space of 7,500 square metres has a theater with 1,000 seats, a film projector, a stage for art performance, song, dance and music instrument practice rooms, a dressing room and other rooms.

There are wide corridors where various exhibits can be diplayed and other facilities.

75-ton crane ship "Charyok Kaengsaeng"

The June 2 Harbour Construction Office of the DPRK built and launched the new crane ship "Charyok Kaengsaeng".

The lifting capacity of this crane ship is 2.5 times that of the previous one.

The crane ship can not only raise work efficiency five times in the assembling of structures under water but also do comprehensively and effectively various works in harbour construction, such as ground work at the sea-bottom, block assembling and large concrete stake driving work.

"Charyok Kaengsaeng" with a 30 odd metre long arm can freely do loading and unloading work.

Spinning mill with 50,000 spindles

The modern spinning mill with 50,000 spindles had been built and put into commissioning in Kanggye in the northern region of the DPRK.

The mill spins yarn from chemical fibres produced in sufficiency in the DPRK.

14,000-ton cargo ship "Tumangang", November 23

The Chongjin Shipyard of the DPRK launched the new cargo ship.

The ship is equipped with modern facilities for safe and free navigation, loading and unloading operations and the life of crewmen.

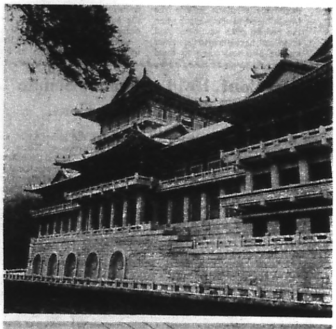
The electrification project of the Taedonggang-Sinsongchon Railway line December 11

With the electrification of this line of busy traffic, its technical equipment has been modernized and transport capacity markedly increased.

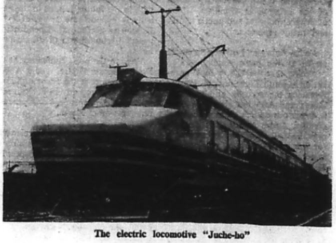
Prior to this, the electrification of the Paekdusan Youth Railway Line was completed and the electrified line between Kilju and Hyesan (over 140 km) was opened to traffic. Now the proportion of haulage by electric locomotives is 66 per cent in the total railway freightage.

▲ The Pyongyang Metro

▼ The International Friendship Exhibition



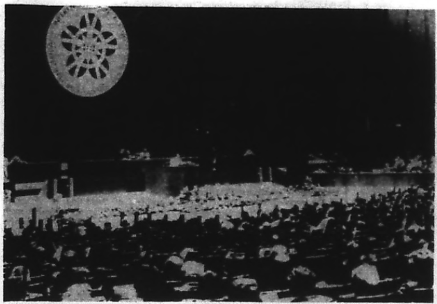
The Pyongyang-Wonsan Express Highway



The electric locomotive "Juche-ho"

to Support Korea Reunion

Diplomatic Conduct



The Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Countries was held from July 25 to 30 this year in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

President Kim Il Sung and had talks with Presidents Tito and Ceausescu.

Both Presidents insisted on the U.S. troops' withdrawal, opposed "two Koreas" plot and expressed a full support for the reunification policy of the DPRK.

Through these diplomatic efforts, the DPRK contributed to the unity and solidarity of the non-aligned countries at their Foreign Ministers' Conference held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia at the end of July.

The conference simultaneously adopted a declaration supporting the reunification policy of the DPRK, in opposition to the imperialist and dominationist forces' splitting and alienating plot, and demonstrated unity under the banner of anti-imperialism and independence.

This was a heavy blow at the the US imperialists and the Pak Jung Hi junta which had employed various machinations to hamper the unity and solidarity between the DPRK and non-aligned movement.

Under the instigation of the United States, the Pak junta tried to approach the non-aligned countries with an aim to get international approval of "two Koreas."

Following the foreign ministers talks with the U.S. and Japan, the Pak junta held conferences of heads of its legations in the Middle East in a bid to get support of non-aligned countries.

However, the failure of their efforts was shown as Korean article of the declaration of the Foreign Ministers' Conference was simultaneously approved without amendment.

This is partly because Asian countries attending the conference took joint action regarding the Korean problem, firmly united with each other. Especially, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal and India, which had been "neutral", insisted on the US troops' withdrawal and firmly supported Korea's independent and peaceful reunification.

This suggested that the solidarity between the Republic and Asian countries had been further strengthened.

On the other hand, the Republic joined the World Health Organization with an overwhelming support of the Third World countries in 1973 and the International Civil Aviation Organization and UN Food and Agriculture Organization last year. As a result, the DPRK became a full member state of 140 international organizations including 10 UN specialized organizations.

In accordance with DPRK's ever-increasing participation in international community, many countries show a strong support for Korea's reunification. Since the end of 1975, solidarity organizations for supporting Korea's reunion has been formed one after another the world over and now its number totals 70 in 54 countries.

In accordance with the expansion of the movement, reunification-supporting committees began to get closely connected with each other. This resulted in the successful holding of the First World Conference for Korea's Reunification in Brussels February last year.

Furthermore, in November this year, the Second World Conference for Korea's Reunification was held in Tokyo with the participation of representatives of governments, parties and mass organizations from 57 countries and 11 international organizations and Japanese of various walks of life.

Military Moves in S. Korea This Year

This year's military developments surounding south Korea clearly show that the United States has no intention to withdraw its troops from south Korea but is reinforcing its armed forces, that it does not want peace but a new war in Korea and that it does not seek the reunification of Korea but her permanent division.

"COMBINED FORCES COMMAND"

The "south Korea-U.S. combined forces command (CFC)" was inaugurated on Nov. 7 in Seoul with the particpation of U.S. Defense Secretary Borwn and his south Korean counterpart.

The formation of the "CFC" is an open aggressive act designed permanently to occupy south Korea by force of arms.

REINFORCED U.S. FORCES IN S. KOREA

The United States has reinforced her three services stationed in south Korea, contrary to the pullout.

In the first half of this year alone, the U.S. actually increased its ground force by 2,600 strong. Prior to the inauguration of the "CFC", the ground force was reinforced with the creation of a tank battalion composed of 50 latest-type "M-60" tanks and 130 anti-tank vehicles and tactical support vehicles between July and September.

And the U.S. deployed in south Korea a company of "TOW" missiles which have never been in the foreign bases.

Among other things, the U.S. air force was remarkably strengthened.

The 497th tactical fighter squadron was created on Nov. 8 in south Korea, based in the Taegu AFB. For this purpose, 12 F-4D Phantoms additionally arrived there.

Two AWCS rader planes were sent to south Korea to take part in a military exercise staged in September.

Also in September, the U.S. brought to the Osan AFB in Kyonggi Province "E-3A" alarm planes.

In additipn, the Osan AFB in Kyonggi Province and the Kunsan AFB in North Cholla Province are being expanded. For the construction of storage tanks to hold 140,000 barrels of jet fuel at the Osan AFB, 5.1 million dollars will be used and for the construction of similar facilities at the Kunsan AFB, 1.3 million dollars used.

MILITARY TRANSFER TO S. KOREA

Washington has already transferred to Seoul a large quantity of nuclear weapons and other weapons and military equipment under the pretext of "compensatory measures".

The Carter administration on Nov. 26 confirmed its basic plan to sell sophisticated F-16 fighter planes to south Korea. Earlier, a Pentagon document disclosed that Washington would transfer 19 Phantom fighter-bombers next year to south Korea in order to increase the puppet air force.

The Carter administration is committed to give 1,900-million-dollar military aid to the Pak Jung Hi puppet regime as the "supplementary measures" for the planned "U.S. troop withdrawal."

Pentagon on Jun. 15 decided to give military aid worth 14.2 million dollars for the building of fuel storages for fighter planes and ammunition loading and storing installations in south Korea within fiscal 1980.

REPEATED MILITARY EXERCISES

The U.S. and south Korea have staged large-scale military exercises one after another to increase the "combat capability" with the north as an imaginary "enemy".

Among other things, the 11-day exercise dubbed "Team Spirit '78" was unfolded from Mar. 7 to 18. The exercise was the largest of the kind in scale after the 1953 ceasefire, involving 107,000 American and south Korean troops. As many as 65,000 south Koreans and 20,000 GIs stationed in south Korea participated in the exercise with 22,000 U.S. combat personnel brought from the conti-mainland and the Pacific region.

Prior to this, the following exercises were staged around south Korea from the beginning of this year.

"Emergency Mobilization Exercise" Jan. 17.

At the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni, western Japan, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was alerted for an unspecified exercise, and Carrier-decked RF-4B Phantom reconnaissance planes flew into Iwakuni for a drill with about 65 combat jets there.

"Coronet Condor" was held Jan. 21-Feb. 14.

The exercise was staged in the sky over south Korea. Eight U.S. air force F-15 Eagles arrived in south Korea on Jan. 21 to participate in the operation.

"Condor Hawk" was held Feb. 24-Mar. 20.

"Condor Falcon" was staged Mar. 1-Mar. 22.

The "Team Spirit" was also followed by a "river-crossing operation" of U.S. forces and the puppet army along the line of River Rimjingang in the central western sector of the front toward the end of April; a "south Korea-U.S. combined landing operation" codenamed "Ssangryong No. 8" in the areas of Pohang on the eastern coast in mid-June; and a "new-type equipment operation exercise" and a "south Korea-U.S. combined artillery support exercise" in the western sector of the front in July.

Last November U.S. Marines under the Third Marine Division based in Japan staged an amphibious exercise codenamed "Cafex" in south Korea, involving thousands of marines. The exercise is said to last until next January, aimed to test the landing capacity in the coldest season and air-support capacity.

In October last a war game called "anti-submarine operation exercise" was held by the U.S. and south Korean forces in the sea off the southeastern coast of south Korea, involving the units of the Seventh Fleet.

A massive "military mobilization exercise" dubbed "Ssangryong 78-2" in the area north of Seoul from Oct. 21 to 28 by putting into it puppet army units and part of the "homeland defense reserve force."

Moreover, the U.S. regularly let "B-52" strategic bombers fly to south Korea for provocative exercises throughout this year.

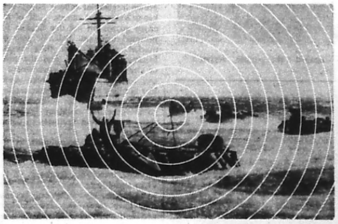


Photo shows a scene of the south Korea-U.S. joint exercise dubbed "Team Spirit '78" staged in March.

Major Dates of South Koreans' Struggle

A new year is just around the corner. In 1978, the broad masses of south Korean people including students, workers and democratic people waged stubborn struggles for abolishing the "yusin constitution", the democratization of south Korean society and the reunification of Korea.

In this year's last issue, The People's Korea looks back to major struggles of south Korean students and democratic people.

☆ ☆

Students

May 8:

Some 1,500 students of Seoul National University staged an anti-"government" rally and demonstration on the campus to protest against the "projected election of the National Conference for Unification," a tool for the permanent office of Pak Jung Hi.

May 9:

In response to the anti-"government" demonstration by Seoul National University students, about 800 students of Rihwa Women's University staged a rally for several hours on the campus in opposition to the "election" and demanded the release of arrested students.

May 16:

More than 150 students of "Hanguk Theological College" in Seoul held an anti-"government" meeting rejecting the "Election to the National Conference for Unification".

Jun. 1:

More than 150 students of the agricultural college of Seoul National University staged a campus demonstration opposing the Pak junta.

Jun. 12:

Some 1,500 students of Seoul National University clashed with the puppet riot police in a hit-and-run anti-"government" campus demonstration. The students shouted "Down with Pak 'regime'".

Jun. 30:

Over 2,000 students of Chonnam University held an anti-"government" rally on the campus and staged a sit-in demonstration.

Sep. 13:

More than 1,000 students of Seoul National University staged a campus demonstration shouting "Down with the Pak junta!" and "Down with the yusin system!"

Sep. 14:

Over 2,000 students of Koryo University gathered at the auditorium inside the university and held an anti-"government" meeting at which a "1978 People's Declaration" was adopted.

Oct. 6:

Around 500 students of Sukmyong Women's University in Seoul held an anti-"government" campus rally and demanded Pak's resignation.

Nov. 7:

Over 3,000 students of Kyongbuk National University in Taegu, North Kyongsang Province temporarily occupied Taegu Railway Station, the Citizen Hall and police boxes as they staged a street demonstration.

Nov. 13:

Over 2,000 students of Seoul University staged an anti-"government" rally and demonstration on their campus, on the heels of the Nov. 7 anti-Pak student uprising of Taegue.

Democratic Figures

Jan. 16:

1,500 south Korean Christians gathered at Seoul's Myongdong Cathedral to pledge themselves to fight for democracy.

Jan. 19:

South Korean prominent dissidents demanded in a statement the current ruling system of south Korea should be abolished and all political prisoners should be freed.

Jan. 31:

The opposition Socialist Unification Party issued a statement denouncing the Pak "regime's" election farce which is designed to maintain a long-term office of Pak Jung Hi.

Mar. 10:

Workers, intellectuals and believers held a meeting at the Christian Hall in Seoul and adopted a "1978 declaration of workers' human rights".

Apr. 11:

The opposition "Democratic Unification Party" called a meeting of the Central Standing Committee in Seoul and adopted a resolution opposing the "elections" planned by the Pak "regime."

Apr. 13:

Eighteen conscientious professors who had been expelled from south Korean universities several years ago for taking an anti-"government" stand formed "Council of Dismissed Professors", defying fascist suppresion.

Apr. 14:

The "Catholic Church Foundation for Justice" made public a statement opposing the "election" designed by the Seoul "regime."

Apr. 18:

South Korean dissident leaders made public an anti-"government" statement in Seoul on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the "April 19 Popular Uprising."

May 18:

South Korean dissidents of broad segment issued an anti-"election statement" and burned "election committee slips" to protest the "election to the national conference for unification."

Jun. 2:

South Korean personages of various circles including signers of the "Declaration for Democracy and National Salvation", and workers and students nearly 500 in all, held an anti-"government" meeting in the Christian Hall in Chongro District, Seoul, demanded the immediate release of the former "presidential candidate" Kim Dae Jung.

Jul. 10:

Believers in Chonju, North Cholla Province, held a prayer meeting, a sit-down and a street demonstration demanding the release of the political prisoners and published a statement denouncing the suppression of human rights by the Pak junta.

Jul. 17:

Over 30 south Korean dissidents including ex-"President" Yun Bo Son's wife, poet Kim Ji Ha's mother and Kim Dae Jung's wife, staged a hunger strike at a church in Seoul in protest against the fascist suppression by the Pak junta.

Aug. 8:

On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the Kim Dae Jung kidnapping case, a group of prominent south Koreans staged a hunger strike, demanding release of Kim Dae Jung.

Sep. 7:

Former south Korean "president" Yun Bo Son and other signers to the "Mar. 1 Declaration for Democracy and National Salvation" in 1976 started a hunger strike at the house of Kim Dae Jung in Seoul and made public a statement denouncing the Pak junta for their fascist repression.

Oct. 13:

Anti-Pak Jung Hi south Korean democratic people issued the "October 17, 1978 National Declaration," bitterly criticizing the present "*yusin* constitution" as the "anti-national, anti-democratic, and anti-popular".

Many students were walked away by puppet plainclothemen during a student anti-Pak demonstration at Seoul National University on June 12.

Dirty Aspects of Pak Junta Exposed

This year dirty aspects, illegal activities of the puppet regime of Pak Jung Hi were more clearly revealed.

The most clear-cut one among the revelations is said to be of the report issued on Nov. 1 by the U.S. House of Representatives International Relations Committee's International Organizations Subcommittee (Fraser Committee) which had investigated south Korean scandals in the U.S. for the past 3 years since the revelation of the acts in the U.S. of Pak Tong Son, an agent for the south Korean "regime", was made for the first time.

Follow major points in the revelations this year of Koreagate; Seoul Subway scandal; Kim Dae Jung abduction case; "Unification Church"; and south Korean "government" officials' scandals.

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Koreagate

The south Korean Pak Jung Hi "government" has been denying that it is not involved in the buying-Capitol Hill activities. The report, however, issued by the Fraser committee has concluded that the activities were conducted under orders from the "government".

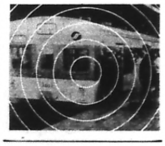
The Fraser committee's final report on Koreagate said as follows:

"(3) In the fall of 1970, meetings were held in the Blue House, some attended by President Park, to discuss centralizing and coordinating activities in the United States designed to influence American policy and officials in favor of South Korean policies. At the first meeting, a plan was proposed for putting Tongsun Park at the head of all ROK lobbying in the United States. Those to be placed under Tongsun Park's control were: Lee Sang Ho, also known as Yang Doo Won, KCIA representative in Washington; Kang Yong Hoon of the Research Institute on Korean Affairs; and Pak Bo Hi of the Korean Cultural and Freedom Foundation.

"(4) Government officials in Seoul with responsibilities for Washington lobbying included Prime Minister Chung Il Kwon, KCIA Director Lee Hu Rak, and Presidential aide Park Chong Kyu. The separate lobbying operations sometimes competed with each other. Generally, they sought to use parliamentarians, scholars, businessmen, and other persons of potential influence. There were frequent paid trips to Korea. In Washington, Tongsun Park's George Town Club, established with KCIA assistance, became a lobbying center for the Korean Government."

For all these findings, the United States side did not condemn the south Korean side, only releasing this final report in the end.

Seoul Subway



The construction of the Seoul subway was started in June, 1971 and four Japanese trading firms—Mitsubishi Corp., Mitsui and Co., Ltd., Nissho-Iwai Co., Ltd., and Marubeni Corp.—jointly won a bidding for coaches in March, 1973. The number of coaches sold to south Korea amounted to ·186.

There were, however, some big problems. One of them was that the four Japanese trading companies remitted a total of $2.5 million to an account at the New York branch of the Chase Manhattan Bank. It is said that the four Japanese trading firms were asked by the late Kim Song Gon, the fixer in the deal to pay exorbitant four percent of the total sales in rebate.

The U.S. House of Representatives International Relations Subcommittee in November made a release shocking to the persons concerned in the rebate in its final report on south Korea-U.S. relations study that the $1.3 million of the $2.5 million commissions paid by the four Japanese trading firms to the New York branch of a south Korean company in Jan. and May, 1973 found their way into south Koreans' accounts in Tokyo banks.

The subcommittee report said that the money had been channeled back to S.K. Kim (Kim Song Gon)'s bank account in Tokyo, indicating that the $1.3 million might have been used as shady rebates to the so-called "south Korean lobbyist Japanese politicians" to help the four firms contract the Seoul subway project.

Japanese tax officials have recently learned that account books and receipts of the remittance were missing from the bank. The tax officials now say that they will shortly file a strong request with south Korean bank officials that the whereabouts of these books be made public.

"Gov't" Officials' Scandals

The Apartment Allotment Affair

Although the "Korean Urban Development Co." of the Hyondae Group, one of the largest local conglomerates, built an apartment house for its employees, the company alloted only 300 units to its employees and about 650 went to over 250 "government" officials, lawmakers, lawyers, and military officers.

The 190 "government" officials involved in the scandal included Ryu In Su (a "Democratic Republican national assemblyman"), elder brother-in-law of Pak Jung Hi, and 5 other "national assemblymen", 5 former "ministers", 1 "vice-minister", 5 "assistant ministers", 3 "deputy assistant ministers", 15 public procurators, 3 generals, 3 "presidential secreatries", 8 "presidential bodyguards", 10 agents of the "Central Intelligence Agency", and executives of state-run corporations. (The posts are at the time of event)

Sex Scandal

In August it was revealed that a ruling party representative raped high school girl students.

Reports said that Rep. Song Rak Hyon had sexually abused a total of 7 high school girls last year.

In spite of the south Korean public anger, these two events were not taken seriously by the authorities because any more search would disgrace the Pak Jung Hi "regime".

Kim Dae Jung Abduction

This year we met the fifth year since Kim Dae Jung, former "presidential" candidate of south Korea, was abducted from a Tokyo hotel in broad daylight on August 8, 1973.

During the last five years a lot of facts on the abduction were brought to light: the criminals involved in the the abduction were agents of the KCIA. One of them was then first secretary at the south Korean "embassy" in Japan.

As for this year, it was revealed in April that two Japanese had witnessed the abduction when they shared the elevator of Grand Palace Hotel with the abductors and Kim Dae Jung himself. They had identified the abductors had been KCIA members.

In November it was reaffirmed in the final report published by the U.S. House of Representatives International Relations Committee's International Organizations Subcommittee that Kim Dae Jung was kidnapped by the "KCIA". The report said, "In July 1973, Kim Dae Jung traveled to Japan, intending to return shortly to take up a fellowship at Harvard. During the daytime on August 8, he was kidnaped from his hotel room in Tokyo by the KCIA. On August 13, he was released near his home in Seoul, and 3 days later was placed under house arrest."

Earlier before this reaffirmation, Donald L. Ranard, former director of the Office of Korean Affairs of the Department of State of the U.S., alleged in a contributed article to the Japanese Mainichi Shimbun that the Japanese goverment is responsible for the kidnapping.

The attitudes taken by the Japanese authorities' side and the south Korean side, however, have not changed in spite of these indisputable revelations.

Moon Cult

Although it had already been known that the Moon organization is affiliated with the south Korean "regime", the report released in November by the Fraser committee of the U.S. House endorsed the allegation.

The report said that the "Unification Church" of Sun Myung Moon is affiliated with the KCIA and that the "church" is a tool for political purposes of the Pak Jung Hi "regime".

In the report it is said:

"(5) The numerous political, business, cultural, and religious activities associated with Rev. Sun Myung Moon constitute one organization, designated by the subcommittee as the 'Moon organization'.

"(a)...Among the components of the Moon organization in the United States are the Unification Church, the Korean Cultural and Freedom Foundation, New World (a New York paper), the Freedom Leadership Foundation, and fishing and seafood businesses in Alabama, Massachusetts, and Virginia.

"(b) In pursuit of its own goals, the Moon organization at various times has submitted to the control of, and has coordinated its activities with, the Korean government.

"(d) Tong Il Industries Co., a Korean component of the Moon organization which manufactures parts for the M-16 rifle for the Korean Government, negotiated with the American patent holder for permission to export Korean-made M-16 rifles, apparently acting on behalf of the Korean Government."

American Missionary Looks at S. Korea Today

"Reunification Is Uppermost in Our Minds"

Presented here are the articles contributed to The People's Korea by an American missionary residing in Osaka, Mr. Thomas James, who was recently back to Japan from a trip to south Korea. During his stay there, the long-time observer of the Korean issue intensively looked round south Korea, met a number of south Koreans and interviewed with an ex-student activist and a head of *ri*.

Through her first-hand look, the American describes the gloomy aspects of south Korea where the people suffer from difficulties of all kinds under the *yusin* dictatorship by the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique and the American-Japanese domination, political, economic and military....Ed.

Our Enemy, American-Japanese Imperialism

This person, because of many political activities, has requested not to mention his name.

Kim (not real name) first became active in KCSF in 1969. He became active in student demonstrations and was sentenced to 20 years in prison in 1974 for anti-government subversive activities but was released one year later due to outside pressure on the government. In 1976, again because of organizing students, he went underground to escape arrest. While underground, "I began to think of problems of reunification, and saw the need to organize laborers and peasants as the two basic powers in our country." In 1976 he started working with the Catholic Farmers Association. "By nature I'm bourgeoisie and a part of the intelligentsia, so I can't really be involved in the movement, I can only support the peasant movement."

"How can we solve the reunification problem? Our country has been divided by the US. Korean people do not want this division. Reunification is uppermost in our minds.

Only the peasants and laborers can save Korea—nothing can be done on the official level. But first we must fully understand the problems involved, for if people don't understand the problems then they can't solve them. But in south Korea we have no freedom to talk about these problems. More students' consciousnesses are being raised as more and more peasants are being driven to the cities because of the economic situation. We are subject to not only economic imperialism but also cultural imperialism.

Our enemy of now and the future is American-Japanese imperialism. Especially Japanese imperialism, since 80% of foreign capital comes from Japan. To change the economic situation we must have better division of property, an equalization of property. Everyone has the right to survive, but the gap between the very rich and poor is growing. Just in the paper today (8/28/78) it said 76.5% of the laborers make barely enough money to live on, while 2% of the people own 70% of the capital. Our present capital-government relationship was imported from the US and Japan. Our business is dominated by monopolists. We have an unbalanced growth policy. Industrialization must be connected with the raw materials we have available. But now our country industrializes without regard to the needs or materials that our country has. Both raw materials and capital are imported from overseas. This drive has resulted in the mass influx of farmers to the cities started in the 60's. Prices have been skyrocketing. The laborers and farmers have been increasingly exploited as the entrepreneurs are growing richer.

The government is always telling the farmer what to do. The government told us to grow the Maleyang strain of rice. It has a higher yield but doesn't taste good so it's hard for the farmer to sell what he doesn't sell to the government on the private market. The stalks are thin, so they're vulnerable to pests, and can't be used for thatching.

Why do you think the government is telling farmers to build new houses with tiles? So they can promote the cement industry. It's not to help the farmers but to help the cement industry.

The co-ops should be farmer-run, and we should be able to elect the heads of our own local co-ops. But everything is government-run, and the government appoints the co-op officials.

We need to train farmers to solve problems by themselves. We need to be organized for power. But we can't talk about cooperative farming because it's "communist." Each village has a government spy—the ri-chang. He's usually appointed by the government local office and reports everything to the government.

There are three basic problems: 1) Tenancy problem. Tenancy is growing, and as farmers give up their land city capital is buying up the land taking more land out of agriculture. 30-35% of farmers are tenants now.

2) Farmers can't decide the prices of their own products. They're decided by the government, often with little regard to the actual cost. The price of rice often doesn't even cover the costs involved. The government is the omnipresent middle-man....it not only controls the price of rice but indirectly controls other prices, too.

3) The agricultural co-ops. We must organize a pure farmers' organization, completely independent of the government. It shouldn't be a religious organization. It should decide farm prices and protest government policies that hurt farmers' interests. Politically farmers should cooperate with labor, and become a part of the whole decision-making process on a national level.

I hope we can join with other Third World countries' mass movements.

Students of Seoul National University stubbornly confront the puppet riot police, demanding Pak Jung Hi resign from office and his yusin dictatorship be abolished.

Analysis of This Year's Resistance

The south Korean people have taken another great stride this year in their struggle for the democratization of society, while training their strength even under suppression, daring the storm of fascist rampage.

The determination of the south Korean people to expel the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique from "power" at any cost finds expression, above all, in the fact that the struggle against the puppets' scheme to remain in "power" for an indefinite period has developed in depth this year, assuming the nature of a protracted struggle.

A concrete example of this is the undaunted anti-"government" struggle waged by the south Korean people of all walks of life under slogans against "elections" at the time of the "election to the national conference for unification" in May, the puppet presidential "election" in July and the "election" to the puppet national assembly in December.

As the time flowed, the anti-"government" slogans rang out of the fighting ranks with a stronger appeal and sharper political edge. This vividly showed the course of the development in depth of the south Korean people's movement for democracy.

On the other hand, the south Korean people strove to strengthen their solidarity and close their ranks in order to expand the struggle successfully.

It should be recalled that the waves of anti-"*yusin*" and anti-puppet demonstrations of students touched off in Seoul last May by the criminal "election" to the "national conference for unification," a tool of traitor Pak Jung Hi for his long-term office, rapidly spread to Suwon, Chonju, Kwangju and Taegu and such anti-"government" struggle organizations as "the national union for democracy," "the committee of democratic youth for human rights," "the consultative council of discharged professors" and "the consultative council of detainees for the restoration of democracy" were formed in succession in the high tide of the struggle.

The people showed greater persistence in their struggle, uniting their strength.

Students of Seoul University who had called for the convocation of a "meeting of the whole citizens and students" in the heart of Seoul to carry into practice the anti-fascist "action line," waged an anti-"government" struggle, daringly pressing toward the Sejong-ro street up to the puppet government building on June 26, the set date, and sent a cold shiver down the spines of the puppets.

The attention of the people was drawn to an undaunted demonstration of students in Taegu preceded by the publication of their "declaration of national salvation," in which they declared: "Give us freedom or death" the violent advance of more than 2,000 students of Kyongbuk University who knocked down 60 policemen and destroyed a police box on Nov. 7 indicated that the indignation of the people at the puppets had already reached the point of explosion.

The bold advance of the working class in the anti-fascist struggle was an important event that instilled new life into the overall struggle.

The courageous struggle of hundreds of textile workers who shouted "Legalize the trade union movement!" to the face of the puppet prime minister when they were dragged to a "government-sponsored function on "day of workers" last March, and the undaunted struggle of workers of the Tongil textile company for democratic freedom demonstrated the staunch mettle of the working class which had been steeled and united organisationally in the struggle against the enemy.

Developments this year vividly show that the south Korean people are further intensifying their struggle and advancing in a torrential flow toward one goal of destroying "*yusin*."

Peasants in Kwangju protest against the puppet regime's anti-popular rural policy.

Peasants Income Not Enough For Basic Living

The area is better off than most other areas—land is fertile, relatively flat, rather near distribution center (about 40-min. bus ride from Chunchon, the provincial capital, although there are only about 6 buses a day). In the village, there are 55 hectares of rice paddy and 46 hectares of dry land, on which is grown vegetables (about 50%), soybeans(20%), and others. Half of the crops grown on the dry field is for personal use, and half for sale on market. But 80% of their overall income is from rice, and the price of rice decided on by government is too low to make any real profit. For families to actually make money they rely on outside sources of income—generally children leave the farm to work in factories in Chunchon or Seoul.

There are 86 households in the village, of which 71 are engaged in agriculture and 15 are not (public servants, merchants, teachers). Of the 71 in agriculture, only 20 can be said to be making any money, only because they have more land, few children, and half some kind of side income. 40 or so are just barely breaking even, if that. 10 families have too little land to support their families and must work on others' fields as day laborers for extra income. Population is 471, 233 males, 238 females.

The ri-chang estimated that the upper one-third's yearly income in the ri was about 1,500,000 won, of which 1,000,000 went for basic necessities and costs. Other families didn't even make enough for basic living expenses. About 20 people in the ri worked seasonally as day laborers for about 30,000 won/month. The most well-off people in the ri were those who had given up farming altogether and were working in the public sector for an average 130,000 won/month(about 13 people).

60% of the rice grown must be sold to the government. Since they are forced to grow the new strains of rice that do not taste good it is often difficult to sell the remaining 40% on the private market. The village would like to devote more of the land to dry field and dry field crops that yield greater profits, but the government doesn't want them to.

Overall, 60% of the children of the ri stay in farming. Conversation with one farmer:

Government interference is great and there is no chance for farmers to organize. On the border of the lake is a ri-gun, or village army, a base where outside government troops are stationed. The whole area near that part of the lake is cordoned off with barbed wire and no trespassing signs. (When I asked about how many were there, he replied, "I would never ask! You want them to think I'm a North Korean spy?) Farmers no longer trust each other, afraid that if they complain or try to mount some kind of protest they would be reported on by a neighbor, or an informer. The ri-chang is seen as a government agent, not to be trusted.

One farmer said he "used to like" the US but doesn't now because of US's worldwide "interventions."

The ROK army, he feels, even if it's more modern and sophisticated than the north, has no coalition, no unity, is raft with corruption. He sees no way for anti-government forces to form. There are other "ri-guns," he said, all over Korea. This ever-present government force and the economic situation prevents any coalition from forming. Most farmers don't understand the whole situation.

One young woman, married to another farmer from the same ri, really likes farming and the land and is proud that her husband's family has always been farmers. She really hates the changes she sees in the change of Korea values, especially the growth of materialism, which she attributes to American and Japanese influence.

Workers Have No Hope or No Trust in Unions

Sabok is one of the most isolated regions in Korea. The railroad (with one train going through per day) was just built 5 years ago; until then they used to truck people in to mine the fields which opened in 1965. Once the railway was built, tho', an influx of people came and settled down to live, mostly in massive company barracks.

The whole area is dominated by the mines. While I was there, the rivers ran in thick black torrents from the week's rain—2 people drowned, and one well I saw was completely submerged. Several buildings were washed away, mostly outhouses.

Sabok has a population of 20,000, and near-by Kohan has 40,000 people. Almost everybody works in the mines. The area is dominated by three major mines, Tong Won, the biggest private company with about 4,000 workers; Sam Tan, which has the biggest-scale mine and 2,000, and Tong Ko with several hundred. In addition, there are many small mining companies. Since mines and their related industries are "industries connected with the national defense," organizing is even more difficult, for anything that may interfere with "national defense" production is ipso facto a "Communist-inspired" activity. Each of the major companies have their own labor union, while all the small companies have one big labor union covering all of them, the Paek Un No Cho. Most labor unions are company-directed, or with labor union officials that are fully sympathetic with management views, and often have no experience in the mines

Sabok has a very bad reputation because until recently the only ones who came to mine were ex-convicts who couldn't get jobs elsewhere. Since mining, as a hazardous occupation, pays rather well, it has become a way to make "easy money", especially for young people who can't get jobs in the cities. It's said even college students with the intention of working 3-5 years, saving up money, when leaving, have come to the mines. Still, the reputation is that "most" of the miners are ex-convicts, tho' one source very close to the miners says it's now less than half. Nevertheless, Sabok offers little in recreation—no movies, libraries, playgrounds, sports centers. There are only two buses, which take people only to nearby towns—for distances farther than 40km. There's only the once-a-day train. Most of the area is covered with mines that are closed off to the public and heavily guarded; in one mountain that isn't is said to have poisonous snakes, and indeed in the week before I came, three people were bit. The only "recreation" open is drinking, and as one resident put it, "playing with knives." Street brawls are frequent, and it's considered unsafe for anyone to walk the streets at night. Indeed, Sabok, even tho' a place with a national defense-related industry, has no curfew, because, one person said, "there's no one in their right mind who would want to try and enforce it."

Miners' salary varies according to 4 categories: base salary, attendance bonus, tonnage produced, and hazard duty. 4 months' perfect attendance brings an extra 20,000 w. The "Sensan"—literally, first in the mountain, the forefront—get the most for their work is the most dangerous—between 160,000-170,000 w/month. For some one with 5 yrs. experience and full attendance. An outside worker gets only 90,000 won/month. In addition, they get paid according to the shift—the mines themselves are open 24 hours a day. The 7:00-3:00 shift gets paid the least, followed by the 3:00-11:00 shift and the most highly paid 11:00pm to 7:00 a.m. shift. The biggest mine, Tong Won, sometimes let their miners have Sun. or a Wed. off, but most miners get off only when there is no electricity—which happens about twice a month.

Generally, women work outside as sorters, watching the coal mixed with rocks run past and picking out the rocks, and get 60,000 to 70,000 won/month.

Aside from mining accidents, miners are guaranteed to get black lung within 10 years of working at the mines. Most retire at 45 with black lung, and of 4,000 miners examined for a periodic health check-up, no one was older than 47. The salaries quoted above are rather good, but are the result of major increases given last year. Most of the miners on the edge of retirement-due-to-sickness received much less, and as a result, have little savings to fall back on. Since most miners marry late, most of their children are too small to help out. But the situation has really changed and now most miners are young people with young families.

. The National Mining Union gives scholarships to miners' children providing their fathers are still working when they apply—the hitch is, by the time the children are old enough to apply, their fathers are laid up with black lung.

The two major problems with organizing miners are 1) the labor union officers are not working for the miners but are merely trying to keep their own positions.

2) The laborers themselves have not been educated, do not have the consciousness of textile workers, and thus show little interest, and have little hope or trust in any labor unions.

Still money is a problem.

Most families cannot survivie if the men don't work, so even if a man is very sick, he'll drag himself out to work so his family can eat. One neighbor works about 10 days a month. But this disqualifies him from free medical care. Meanwhile, the local hospital, because it must accept the cases that do qualify for "free" care, charges even more for those who do pay (2 categories, 60% and 100%). Thus most people can't afford adequate medical care.

Rodong Sinmun on "Yujonghoe Legislators"

The Pak Jung Hi fascist clique will hold the second session of the "National Conference for Unification" to select "*yujonghoe* assemblymen" on Dec. 21, according to reports.

A buffoonery of formal election will be staged at the session to confirm 77 lackeys appointed by puppet Pak Jung Hi as "assemblymen."

A signed commentary of Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the WPK) Dec. 20, says:

It is without precedent in history that a self-styled "president" appoints 'assemblymen". This is one more ridiculous and shameless masquerade staged to maintain and prolong the system of "*yusin*" fascist dictatorship and realise the ambition for long-term office at all costs.

Dismayed at the ever growing, strong anti-"government" sentiments of the people, traitor Pak Jung Hi discarded even the "presidential election" for form's sake and stayed in the "presidential" seat with obstinacy.

As if it were not enough, he even invented the "system of appointing assemblymen" without parallel in the world to reduce the puppet national assembly to a mere marionette and freely manipulate it.

"*Yujonghoe*" was framed up to boss the show by holding majority seats in the puppet national assembly with the "Republican Party" gang. It is a paid tool for buttressing traitor Pak Jung Hi's one-man dictatorship and a detached force of the "Republican Party."

Recalling that the "*yujonghoe* assemblymen," faithful servants of traitor Pak Jung Hi, have practised all evils to gratify his lust for power and back his treacherous acts, the commentary continues:

It is clear what crimes the fascist detached force organized for the long-term office of puppet Pak Jung Hi will commit in the "national assembly" in the future. No sooner had the puppets carried out the "election to the national assembly" than they started twanging the harp of "re-organization of structures," "buildup of strength" and "growth of war industry" to reinforce the fascist "*yusin* system". In other words, they mean to further step up the manoeuvres of fascistization and war, treachery and division.

Minju Choson (organ of the DPRK Government) in a commentary brands the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique's business of "selection of *yujonghoe* assemblymen" as a despicable masquerade never known in history, in which they appoint their faithful lackeys without so much as "the nation's direct vote" to fill one-third of the puppet national assembly seats.

The commentary says:

This masquerade of traitor Pak Jung Hi is a political farce invented to reduce the puppet national assembly to his monopoly and appendage and a waiting maid of the fascist dictatorship. It is also a sequel of the criminal election to the puppet national assembly for his long-term office and prolongation of his fascist rule which have bumped into the resistance of the people. (KCNA)

Fact Sheet about S. Korea

The puppet Pak Jung Hi regime of south Korea reportedly got into foreign debts to the tune of 8,108 million dollars by the end of 1977 by inducing foreign loans.

This means over 1,000 dollars of foreign debts per household in south Korea. In addition, the puppet regime recently worked out "a plan for the introduction of long-term loans."

The loans to be repaid by the "regime" from 1977 to 1981, the principal and interest put together, run to the staggering figure of 10,028 million dollars.

The puppet clique share out part of the induced foreign loans to comprador capitalists and reactionary bureaucrats to line their pockets.

On the other hand, the ordinary south Koreans are constantly groaning under heavier tax burden and harsher exploitation. Their living conditions become miserable more and more. The poor-rich gap is ridiculously widening despite Seoul's much ado about the superficial "high economic growth" sustained by astronomical influx of foreign loans.

The recent dispatches from Seoul received here reveal the wretched life of south Koreans.

INCREASING TAX BURDEN

The target of tax collection set by the Pak "regime" this year runs into more than 3,700,000 million *won* (local taxes included: 484 *won* approximately one dollar). The amount averages more than 103,000 *won* per capita of the population.

The internal taxes squeezed from the people from January to July amounted to 1,333,862 million *won*. This is 47 times the internal taxes in 1962, the year after the Pak Jung Hi military junta usurped power. Among other things, the "defense tax" included in the commodity prices, which had been collected by the end of July, totaled 206,402 million *won*.

RISING PRICES

The Pak "regime" raised all kinds of utility fees and prices this year.

The railway fares, electricity fees and other fees were raised by a big margin. The raise of railway fares was to bring to the puppet regime additionally 15,500 million *won*.

The price of rice continues soaring in south Korea with little rice on sale on the market though right after the harvest.

The price per straw-bag in South Kyongsang Province has of late jumped 1,000 *won* above that in September. In Chongju, North Chungchong Province, it is 2,000 *won* higher than that in South Kyongsang Province.

Commodity prices were also raised 12 per cent in cement, 13.7 per cent in reinforcing bar, 14.4 per cent in slate and 11.9 per cent in newsprint from Nov. 21.

Earlier, the prices of bicycles, tin plate, stockings and so on were raised by between 12 and 15 per cent. It was also decided to lift the oil price 15 per cent within this year.

The prices of manufactured goods had been increased on five occasions by the end of October.

BANKRUPT MINOR ENTERPRISES

More than 1,140 minor enterprises suspended or curtailed operation in one month of October. This resulted from the acute shortage of fund and marketing difficulty.

HARSHER EXPLOITATION AND BAD WORKING CONDITIONS

Long working hours and low wages compel an increasing number of workers to leave their work sites at enterprises in the Pusan area. Their monthly number accounted for 7 to 8 per cent of the entire workers over the last few months on an average. In October alone, 10,900 workers left their work sites at fiber, plywood and shoemaking factories.

At coal and ore mines, more than 9,300 workers left the work sites in quest of means of livelihood from January to August. The figure is much greater than that for the whole of last year.

Labour accidents which occured at enterprises in Pohang, North Kyongsang Province caused deaths of 14 workers in October. And over 900 workers were dead or wounded in labour accidents that took place in Ryochon county, South Cholla Province, from January to October. These accidents took place, as the employers overworked them at working sites without the least labour safety facilities.

FALL OF RICE YIELD

This year the rice yield in North Chungchong Province plummeted by over 600,000 *som* (one *som* equivalent to 150kg) below the estimated yield, a sharp fall below the already low average between 1973 and 1977.

The Pak "regime" has devastated the rural economy, leaving it defenseless against the whimsical weather under the influence of the cold front, and forced the peasants to sow an unfit strain of rice only to make a mess of farming.

Crops were ruined by pollution over 850,000-900,000 *pyong* (one *pyong* is 6 feet square) in Samsan-*dong* and Tal-*dong*, Ulsan, South Kyongsang Province, thereby resulting in a bad crop.

DROPPING FISH CATCH

On the east coast of south Korean Kangwon Province and North Kyongsang Province, the cuttlefish catch in the first nine months of this year was not more than 68 per cent of last year's. Last year the catch of saury fell by 3,000 tons and the output of such seaweeds by 1,800 tons below the previous year.

Thus, the income of the fishermen engaged in cuttlefish catching from January to early September plummeted by 170 million *won* below the same period of last year. To earn their bread, 5,000 fishermen in North Kyongsang Province left their villages this year, and 10,000 fishermen in south Korean Kangwon Province are on the point of leaving.

Also in the south sea coastal fishing grounds of South Kyongsang Province, the shellfish output of this year is less than a half that in 1975, as poisonous materials disgorged by factories killed fishes.

"MANPOWER EXPORT" AND "EMIGRATION"

More than 42,200 workers were traded off to foreign countries under the name of "manpower export" in the first half of this year.

The Pak "regime" plans to "emigrate" to Latin America over 2,000 fishermen in the period from 1979 to 1983, and 300 peasant households between 1981 and 1983.

WORSENING HOUSING PROBLEM

The rate of housing shortage has reached 50 per cent in Seoul, Taegu, Pusan and other big cities and over 44 per cent in other cities, even if the board hovels and dugouts are counted as houses. Now 2.5 million citizens of Seoul live in board hovels and dugouts.

Tragic deaths from cold in the open have took place in an unbroken chain from early winter from among the poor who do not have even such dwellings.

Nevertheless, planning to remove those shaddy houses, for 222,000 poor families in Seoul, Pusan and other cities, by Nov. 1 the Pak "regime" had removed by force 12,700 houses.

It further intends to remove 122,450 dwelling houses in Seoul, Pusan, Taejon, Inchon, Cheju and Chonju over a period of three years from 1979 to 1981. As an initial step, it plans to pull down over 91,680 houses in Seoul, more than 19,640 houses in Pusan and upwards of 2,710 houses in Taejon.

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